

THE ILLINOIS PROGRAM

TO MEET THE

Tuberculosis War Problem

ADOPTED BY

THE COOPERATING COMMITTEE ON THE TUBERCULOSIS WAR
PROBLEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE ILLINOIS TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION.

IF THE WAR IN EUROPE SHOULD END TO-DAY, FRANCE WOULD STAGGER UNDER THE BURDEN OF A HALF MILLION OF HER PEOPLE CRIPPLED BY THE WOUNDS OF BATTLE AND ANOTHER HALF MILLION OF HER PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW ENTERED UPON THE SAME WAR AND THE SAME KIND OF WARFARE.

"In this emergency we must retain and encourage the intensification of the methods and conditions which have proven valuable in the past, and which no radical innovation has as yet arisen to supplant."—Editorial in Jour. Amer. Med. Assn. June 9, 1917.

The plan adopted by the Rockefeller Foundation to save France from the scourge of disease is based on more education, more dispensaries, more nurses—more work among all the people.

[Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.]

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THE COOPERATING COMMITTEE ON THE TUBERCULOSIS WAR PROBLEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE, STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ILLINOIS TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION.

Outline of a Program for Meeting the Tuberculosis War Problem of Illinois.

[Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.]

THE COMMITTEE AND COUNTY SUB-COMMITTEES.

The Cooperating Committee on the Tuberculosis War Problem of the State Council of Defense of Illinois brings together the governmental and extra-governmental agencies of the State to assist in meeting the tuberculosis problems of war which have been so acutely felt in the warring nations of Europe.

The Committee consists of one member from each county in the State and one or more members from each of the larger communities. The member from each county is known as the *County Chairman* for his county and he is authorized to select the members of a County Sub-Committee which is charged with the work of preparedness necessary in the particular county.

THE PROGRAM.

I.—INCREASING THE APPRECIATION ON THE PART OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE PUBLIC AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AS A WARTIME PROBLEM.

- (a) The preparation of a Brief on the Importance of Tuberculosis in the Present War, including all available information relative to the experiences of the warring nations of Europe together with the means these nations have adopted to suppress and control the disease.

(Such a brief entitled "The Wartime Problem of Tuberculosis in the United States," has already been issued by the Illinois Tuberculosis Association. This circular has run through two Illinois editions and permission has been given for the publication of special editions by the States of Iowa, Indiana, North Carolina, Montana, Arkansas, Washington, South Carolina, Maine and other States.)

- (b) Placing the facts about tuberculosis as a war problem in the hands of State military authorities and in the hands of medical examiners of recruits, the medical members of exemption boards, etc.
- (c) A campaign of education to arouse interest among civil public officials, members of county boards of supervisors, mayors, school boards, health officers and those interested in tuberculosis work in the various communities.

II.—THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MACHINERY IN EVERY COUNTY IN ILLINOIS.

- (a) The creation of a County Sub-Committee on the Tuberculosis War Problem in each county of the State, of which Sub-Committee the County Chairman is the Chairman.
- (b) Increasing the facilities of all existing anti-tuberculosis organizations now operating dispensaries and visiting nurse service.
- (c) The development of dispensaries and visiting nurse service in all tuberculosis organizations now organized; but relatively inactive.
- (d) The creation of organizations in all counties in which there is no existing tuberculosis organization and the immediate development of medical, dispensary and nursing service.

(Since this program has been undertaken, organizations have been created in practically every county in the State and there has been more constructive activity in the various counties and communities than in any similar period in the history of Illinois. In Decatur and Morgan County tuberculosis nursing and dispensary work have been undertaken with appropriations from public sources of approximately \$5,000 per year. Kankakee County has provided for a community nurse and a similar provision has been made in Ogle County. Morgan County has set aside \$5,000 per year for nurses and dispensaries and McLean County is planning nursing and dispensary organization. Scores of other communities are manifesting interest in these essential things for the first time in their history.)

- (e) Securing the cooperation of the State Medical Society and the county medical societies in the development of county dispensary and nursing service.

- (f) Cooperating with the State Department of Public Health in (1) The development of the newly-created Bureau of Tuberculosis; (2) In the establishment of standards of nursing, dispensary equipment and diagnostic methods for county tuberculosis work; (3) In securing the enforcement of the Rule of the Department requiring the reporting of tuberculosis by physicians to health officers.

(Rules and Regulations of the State Department of Public Health, in full force August 1, 1917, require not only the reporting of all cases of tuberculosis by physicians, attendants or householders, but also more complete supervision over open tuberculous cases than is generally required by the more progressive states in the Union.)

- (g) Cooperating with the Illinois Tuberculosis Association in stimulating local affiliated local organizations to greater activity.
- (h) Assisting in the financing of local tuberculosis preparedness by calling upon public spirited and patriotic persons to support county organizations and by urging county authorities, city councils and boards of education to finance visiting nurses and dispensary service so far as the laws will permit.
- (i) Urging counties which have voted favorably upon the establishment of county tuberculosis sanatoria to appropriate funds necessary for nursing and dispensary service, such work to be carried out under the direction of the County Sanatorium Boards.

(Within the past three months LaSalle County has levied a two mill tax and adopted sanatorium plans; Morgan County has levied a two mill tax and has selected sanatorium site; Adams County has \$75,000 available for sanatorium purposes; McLean County has levied a tax of \$40,000 for a sanatorium; Livingston County has levied a tax of \$10,000 for work preliminary to sanatorium development; Ogle County has established visiting nurses under the County Sanatorium Board.)

III.—IMPROVEMENT IN METHODS OF EXAMINING RECRUITS.

Since this rogram was originally prepared, the Secretary of War has authorized the employment of 212 physicians especially skilled in the diagnosis of tuberculosis to examine suspected individuals in the regular army and has authorized the employment of a larger corps of expert examiners for the uses of the newly-created National Army. This is perhaps the first time that tuberculosis has been given this degree of recognition in the military history of the world.

- (a) Assisting the Federal authorities in the selection of physicians skillful in the diagnosis of tuberculosis and urging such physicians to serve.

- (b) Recommending to the military authorities standards which will determine the advisability of special examination of individual recruits for the detection of tuberculosis.
- (c) The taking of a complete census of tuberculosis in Illinois together with a census of men of recruiting age who are members of families in which open tuberculosis has recently occurred and making this information available to the United States Army, to recruiting authorities and local health officials.

(This important work is now being carried out and will be completed through the County Chairmen and the County Sub-Committees.) The plan contemplates collecting data from the following sources:

1. The names and address of all males of military age who have been treated for tuberculosis in any hospital or sanatorium in Illinois during the past five years (these data are already collected, tabulated and placed in the hands of the Surgeon General of the United States).
2. The names and addresses of all persons dead of tuberculosis in Illinois during the past ten years.
3. Names and addresses of members of the households of persons dead of tuberculosis and names and addresses of members of notoriously tuberculous families.
4. Names and addresses of all persons reported as tuberculous under the provisions of the rules and regulations of the State Health Department.
5. Names and addresses of all tuberculous persons as indicated sputum examinations in the laboratories of the State Department of Public Health.
6. Names and addresses of tuberculous persons ascertained by intensive service in all counties to be conducted by county sub-committees.
7. Names and addresses of all persons rejected by exemption boards on account of tuberculosis, these names now being transmitted to the State Department of Public Health by medical examiners at the request of the Governor of Illinois.

IV.—EMPLOYMENT OF DATA.

These lists give the first exact information in regard to the distribution of tuberculosis ever available in Illinois and the data are being employed as follows:

1. Lists of tuberculous persons of military age indexed and tabulated and placed in the hands of the Surgeon General of the United States army.

2. On receipt of a certificate of death from tuberculosis through the Division of Vital Statistics, a letter is sent to the attending physician suggesting examination of all members of the household in an effort to locate other cases.
3. Names and addresses of tuberculous persons from all sources are transmitted to the local health officers to ascertain if physicians are reporting cases in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Health.
4. The County Sub-Committee is notified of the presence of tuberculous persons in his county so that intensive educational work may be carried out before the cases become incurable.
5. The increasing numbers of reported cases of tuberculosis are brought to the attention of county and city officials to impress upon them the magnitude of their local tuberculosis problem.

V.—ESTABLISHMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS AND SANATORIA.

- (a) Selection by the County Sub-Committee in each county of isolated wards in general hospitals, to be conducted by physicians and nurses experienced in the care of the tuberculous and under the general supervision of the State Department of Public Health, for returned soldiers actively sick with the disease.
- (b) Selection by the County Sub-Committee in each county of a suitable tract of land and arrangements for water supply, sewage disposal and other sanitary installation which may be utilized when required, with temporary buildings, as camps or colonies for the tuberculous.
- (c) Securing information by the County Sub-Committee of the facilities of existing sanatoria in or convenient to each county to care for increased tuberculosis of modern warfare.
- (d) The speeding-up of county sanatoria already voted in the several counties.

(During the past few weeks the counties of LaSalle, McLean, Adams and Morgan have made provision for immediate construction of county sanatoria.

VI.—CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN THE CIVIL POPULATION.

- (a) Urging public and private charity organizations to increase allowances for relief in proportion to the buying power of money.
- (b) Cooperation in all plans of food conservation and in encouraging food production.
- (c) Cooperation with employers, especially those whose factories are under greater pressure due to war, for the improvement of factory

conditions and looking toward periodical physical examination of employees.

- (d) Recommendation to military authorities that returned tuberculous soldiers be not discharged from military service until after the active stage of the disease has subsided.

VII.—CREATION OF MEDICAL FORCES TO MEET THE PROBLEM.

- (a) Recommendation that physicians and nurses engaged in public tuberculosis work withhold themselves from military service until an urgent need may arise.
- (b) That one physician, designated by the County Medical Society of each county, shall give special study and attention to the early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and shall be appointed County Medical Director by the County Sub-Committee.

(County Medical Directors have been selected in most of the counties of the State and are already active. Clinical conferences, to discuss early diagnosis and dispensary methods, are being arranged.)

- (c) That training schools for nurses be urged to include the nursing of the tuberculous and visiting nursing service in their curricula.
- (d) That all established dispensaries be utilized for teaching the early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.